General Assembly

Distr.: General
29 February 2008

Sixty-second session
Agenda item 56 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/62/421/Add.2)*]

62/201. Science and technology for development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/200 of 23 December 2003, 59/220 of 22 December 2004 and 60/205 of 22 December 2005,

Recalling also its resolution 61/207 of 20 December 2006 and its reference to science and technology,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/46 of 28 July 2006,

Recognizing the vital role that science and technology, including environmentally sound technologies, can play in development and in facilitating efforts to eradicate poverty, achieve food security, fight diseases, improve education, protect the environment, accelerate the pace of economic diversification and transformation and improve productivity and competitiveness,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[1]

Recalling also the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,[2]

Recognizing that international support can help developing countries to benefit from technological advances and can enhance their productive capacity,

Underscoring the role that traditional knowledge can play in technological development, and in the sustainable management and use of natural resources,

Acknowledging the urgent need to bridge the digital divide and to assist developing countries in accessing the potential benefits of information and communications technologies,

Welcoming the adoption of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building of the United Nations Environment Programme,[3]

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[1] See resolution 60/1.

[2] See A/60/687 and A/C.2/59/3, annex, chap. I.

[3] UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex.

Reaffirming the need to enhance the science and technology programmes of the relevant entities of the United Nations system,

Noting with appreciation the collaboration between the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in establishing a network of centres of excellence in science and technology for developing countries and in designing and carrying out science, technology and innovation policy reviews,

Taking note with interest of the establishment of the inter-agency cooperation network on biotechnology, UN-Biotech, as described in the report of the Secretary-General on science and technology for development,[4]

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,

Encouraging the development of initiatives to promote private sector engagement in technology transfer and technological and scientific cooperation,

1. *Reaffirms its commitment*:

(*a*) To strengthen and enhance existing mechanisms and to support initiatives for research and development, including through voluntary partnerships between the public and private sectors, to address the special needs of developing countries in the areas of health, agriculture, conservation, sustainable use of natural resources and environmental management, energy, forestry and the impact of climate change;

(*b*) To promote and facilitate, as appropriate, access to, and development, transfer and diffusion of, technologies, including environmentally sound technologies and the corresponding know-how, to developing countries;

(*c*) To assist developing countries in their efforts to promote and develop national strategies for human resources and science and technology, which are primary drivers of national capacity-building for development;

(*d*) To promote and support greater efforts to develop renewable sources of energy, such as solar, wind and geothermal energy;

(*e*) To implement policies at the national and international levels to attract both public and private investment, domestic and foreign, that enhances knowledge, transfers technology on mutually agreed terms and raises productivity;

(*f*) To support the efforts of developing countries, individually and collectively, to harness new agricultural technologies in order to increase agricultural productivity through environmentally sustainable means;

2. *Recognizes* that science and technology, including information and communications technologies, are vital for the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and for the full participation of developing countries in the global economy;

3. *Requests* the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to provide a forum within which to continue to assist the Economic and Social Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society[2] and to address within its mandate, in accordance with Council resolution 2006/46, the special needs of developing

[4] A/62/136.

countries in areas such as agriculture, rural development, information and communications technologies and environmental management;

4. *Encourages* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in collaboration with relevant partners, to continue to undertake science, technology and innovation policy reviews, with a view to assisting developing countries and countries with economies in transition in identifying the measures that are needed to integrate science, technology and innovation policies in their national development strategies;

5. *Encourages* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other relevant organizations to assist developing countries in their efforts to integrate science, technology and innovation policies in national development strategies;

6. *Encourages* Governments to strengthen and foster investment in research and development for environmentally sound technologies and to promote the involvement of the business and financial sectors in the development of those technologies, and invites the international community to support those efforts;

7. *Encourages* existing arrangements and the further promotion of regional, subregional and interregional joint research and development projects by, where feasible, mobilizing existing scientific and research and development resources and by networking sophisticated scientific facilities and research equipment;

8. *Encourages* the international community to continue to facilitate, in view of the difference in level of development between countries, an adequate diffusion of scientific and technical knowledge and transfer of, access to, and acquisition of technology for developing countries, under fair, transparent and mutually agreed terms, in a manner conducive to social and economic welfare for the benefit of society;

9. *Calls for* continued collaboration between United Nations entities and other international organizations, civil society and the private sector in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, with a view to putting the potential of information and communications technologies at the service of development through policy research on the digital divide and on new challenges of the information society, as well as technical assistance activities, involving multi-stakeholder partnerships;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and recommendations for future follow-up, including lessons learned in integrating science, technology and innovation policies into national development strategies.

78th plenary meeting
19 December 2007